

Message Text

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13

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 SPC-03 IO-13 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 EB-11

DRC-01 /164 W

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R 141419Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9789

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 7261

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, CG, IS

SUBJECT: ZAIRE-ISRAEL RELATIONS

REF: KINSHASA 7920

1. DIRECTOR RUPIN OF EAST AFRICAN AFFAIRS IN FOREIGN MINISTRY TOLD EMBOFF SEPT 12 THAT ISRAELIS DID NOT YET KNOW SIGNIFICANCE OF PUBLICATION PREVIOUS DAY BY ZAIRIAN OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY OF MOBUTU'S COMMENT CONCERNING RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL (REFTEL). RUPIN THOUGHT THIS DEVELOPMENT HAD OMINOUS RING. HE SAID THAT EVERYTHING DEPENDED ON WHETHER MOBUTU HAD BEEN INFECTED WITH DOCTRINAIRE LEFTISM AT NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE; IF SO, HE WAS CAPABLE IN HIS MEGALOMANIA OF A SUDDEN TURNABOUT CONCERNING ISRAEL AND MIDDLE EAST.

2. ACCORDING TO RUPIN, ZAIRIAN DECISION NOT TO RENEW MILITARY TRAINING CONTRACT WITH GOI WAS CONVEYED TO ISRAELIS IN JULY IN HIGHLY BRUSQUE MANNER. HOWEVER, ZAIRIANS AT END OF AUGUST IN RELAXED AND FRIENDLY MANNER ASKED THAT FIVE ISRAELI OFFICERS CURRENTLY IN ZAIRE CONDUCTING TRAINING BE PERMITTED TO REMAIN
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UNTIL END OF YEAR. (SIXTH OFFICER, THE ONE IN CHARGE OF TRAINING

OPERATION, HAD MEANWHILE BEEN CONVERTED BY ISRAELIS INTO MILITARY ATTACHE OF ISRAELI EMBASSY KINSHASA.) ISRAELIS HAVE ACCEDED TO REQUEST.

3. RUPIN SAID LEFTISTS IN ZAIRIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY AND SENIOR PRO-ISRAELI MILITARY OFFICERS HAD BEEN COMPETING WITH EACH OTHER FOR MOBUTU'S EAR. LATE AUGUST ZAIRIAN REQUEST WAS VICTORY FOR MILITARY. RUPIN DID NOT BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT IT NECESSARILY PRESAGED REVERSAL OF ZAIRIAN DECISION TO TERMINATE MILITARY TRAINING ARRANGEMENTS WITH ISRAEL AFTER 1973 OR IMPROVEMENT IN OTHER ASPECTS OF ISRAELI-ZAIRIAN RELATIONS.

4. RUPIN ADDED ISRAELIS WERE GOING AHEAD FULL TILT WITH HOTEL PROJECT IN KINSHASA (KINSHASA 5808), WOULD SEND TEAM SHORTLY TO ZAIRE ON PROJECT, AND MIGHT BE ABLE THEREBY TO BRIGHTEN OUTLOOK FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS.
KEATING

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